

In the Claims:

1. (New): A computer system for peer-to-peer file sharing comprising:
 - a server computer having an index of information about files that reside on a plurality of peer computers, the server computer coupled to the plurality of peer computers by a network;
 - a plurality of agent programs running on at least two of the plurality of peer computers and operable to transmit index information to the server computer and operable to transmit a requested file; and
 - a file sharing program running on the server computer and operable to perform centralized searches based on the index information transmitted to it across the network by the agent programs and to direct a peer-to-peer computer connection for the purpose of exchanging files upon a peer computer file request.
2. (New): The computer system of claim 1 wherein the server computer is also a peer computer.
3. (New): The computer system of claim 1 wherein the contents of at least some of the files stored on a peer computer comprise nontextual data having meta data that comprises one or more vectors extracted from the files.
4. (New): The computer system of claim 1 wherein each agent program creates the index information for selected files on each corresponding peer computer, the selected files selected by user input.
5. (New): The computer system of claim 1 wherein each agent program creates the index information for selected files on each corresponding peer computer, the selected files selected by a computer algorithm.
6. (New): The computer system of claim 1 wherein the agent program comprises a utility program that is resident in an operating system on the corresponding peer computer.

7. (New): The computer system of claim 1 wherein the file sharing program comprises a utility program that is resident in an operating system on the corresponding server computer.